

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/559,766

Applicant(s)

REUFER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Edna Wong

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment dated September 6, 2007.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

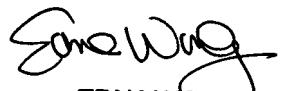
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.


EDNA WONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the heading "Field of the Invention", the following paragraph has been inserted:

-- This application is a national stage application filed under 35 USC 371 of PCT/EP04/05995 filed on June 3, 2004. --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, line 4, "R1-C(=X)R2" has been amended to -- R¹-C(=X)R² --.

Claim 1, line 5, "R1" has been amended to -- R¹ --.

Claim 1, line 7, "R2" has been amended to -- R² --.

Claim 1, line 7, "R1" has been amended to -- R¹ --.

Claim 1, line 8, "N-R3" has been amended -- N-R³ --.

Claim 1, line 9, "R3" has been amended to -- R³ --.

Claim 1, line 9, "R1" has been amended to -- R¹ --.

Claim 2, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 2, line 2, the word -- the -- has been inserted after the word "under".

Claim 2, line 4, "R1-C(=X)R2" has been amended to -- R¹-C(=X)R² --.

Claim 4, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 5, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 8, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 11, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 12, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 14, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 16, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 17, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 18, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

Claim 20, line 1, the word "Process" has been amended to the words -- The process --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

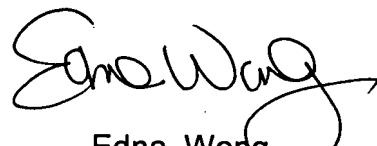
Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach or suggest a process for the preparation of an α -substituted carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of α -hydroxycarboxylic acids and N-substituted α -aminocarboxylic acids, which comprises the step of cathodic carboxylation as presently claimed, esp., wherein the cathodic carboxylation is with carbon dioxide at a diamond film cathode. The prior art does not contain any language that teaches or suggests the above. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would not have been motivated to adopt the above conditions, and a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edna Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Edna Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753

EW
September 18, 2007